

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /079 W  
-----121594 010321Z /61

R 010230Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3851  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12433

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, CH, TH  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK VISIT TO PRC

REF: (A) PEKING 0986; (B) PEKING 0921

1. REFTELS PROVIDE REPORTS OF KRIANGSAK VISIT TO PEKING WHICH GENERALLY COINCIDE WITH INFORMATION WE HAVE PICKED UP IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ASFAIRS OFFICIALS WHO WENT ON THE TRIP. REACTIONS TO TRIP HAVE BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE, WITH RTG OFFICIALS AND MEDIA ALIKE EXPRESSING PLEASURE OVER RECEPTION ACCORDED THAI DELEGATION AND DESCRIBING IT AS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN EVOLUTION OF THAI FOREIGN POLICY UNDER KRIANGSAK'S TUTELAGE. (A TWO-HOUR DOCUMENTARY APPEARED ON LOCAL TELEVISION SOON AFTER THE DELEGATION RETURNED.)

2. THAI ALSO SEEM TO SEE THEMSELVES AS BECOMING A LIAISON  
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POINT BETWEEN CHINA AND NON-COMMUNIST SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE "MESSAGE" RE PRC WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WAS ABLE TO CARRY BACK, CHINA'S PRONOUNCEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND ITS ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY CONCEPT, AND THE DEFINITION OF CHINA'S POLICY TOWARDS OVERSEAS CHINESE HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THAI FEELING THAT

THEY MAY HAVE A NEW ROLE TO PLAY IN THE REGION. (JUDGING FROM COMMENTS BY ASEAN DIPLOMATS STATIONED HERE, FELLOW ASEAN MEMBERS ARE SOMEWHAT LESS IMPRESSED WITH THAILAND'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NOTING THAT PRC APPROVAL OF ASEAN IS NOT EXACTLY NEW AND THAT BOTH INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE KNOW THAT CHINA WILL BE READY FOR RELATIONS ANY TIME THEY ARE.)

3. CONTRARY TO REPORT IN REF A THAT THAI INSURGENCY WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN PEKING, HFA OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT KRIANGSAK IN FACT BROACHED SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ANY ASSURANCES THAT CHINESE SUPPORT FOR CPT WOULD LESSEN. MFA OFFICIALS SAID CHINESE HAD LEFT THEM WITH IMPRESSION THAT BY IMPROVING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA, PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONS WOULD RECEIVE LESS EMPHASIS AND SHOULD NOT, IN ANY CASE, STAND IN THE WAY OF STRENGTHENED GOVERNMENTAL TIES.

4. THAI ALSO REPORTEDLY BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF CHINESE USING THEIR INFLUENCE ON CAMBODIA TO SOLVE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER PROBLEMS. CHINESE RESPONSE, ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIALS, WAS THAT THEY FAVORED IMPROVED THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS AND SUPPORTED NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES. (NOTE: ONE HFA OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT THAI DELEGATION HAD NOT EXPECTED CHINESE TO AGREE TO MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ON THAI BEHALF, BUT HE THOUGHT PRC MIGHT NEVERTHELESS MENTION THAI CONCERN TO THE CAMBODIANS.)  
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5. REGARDING U.S.-CHINESE RELATIONS, THAI SOURCES SAID PRC LEADERS HAD TOLD KRIANGSAK THEY WERE WILLING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH U.S. AS SOON AS U.S. WAS ABLE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS CREATED BY ITS TIES WITH TAIWAN. CHINESE DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS "PATIENT" ABOUT QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT STATED THEY WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. ROLE IN THE WORLD. MFA OFFICIALS SAID CHINESE TOLD THEM U.S. CREDIBILITY WAS SLIPPING DUE TO FAILURE TO RESIST SOVIET INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA. CHINESE WERE ALSO CRITICAL OF WHAT THEY VIEWED AS A DIMINISHING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE CHINESE SAID THAT THEY DID NOT LOOK FOR A MAJOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES IN KOREA BECAUSE THE U.S. RETAINED IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN NORTH ASIA. HOWEVER, THEY FELT THAT U.S. INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD DEFINITELY DWINDLED. MFA OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT THROUGHOUT TRIP THAI DELEGATION WAS BOMBARDED WITH ANTI-SOVIET INVECTIVE, AND, AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED, ALL CHINESE ATTITUDES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS APPEARED TO BE BASED ON THEIR NEAR PARANOIA ABOUT THE SOVIET MENACE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 01 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO12433  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 PEKING 986, 78 PEKING 921  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, OVIP, CH, TH, (KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014